

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 14-21, 23-27 and 29 are now pending in the application. 1-12, 14-21, 23-27 and 29 stand rejected. Claims 13, 22 and 28 have been cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 24-27 and 29 are rejected as being directed toward non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 24-27 and 29 have been amended as set forth above to overcome this rejection and recite subject matter that satisfies the requirements of 35 USC § 101.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 15-21 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 15 has been amended, as set forth above, to recite a system for indicating defect locations on a composite structure, wherein the system that includes a computer-readable media having stored thereon instructions executable by a processor. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 15 particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Therefore, Applicants request that the § 112 rejection be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-12, 14-21, 23-27 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beck et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,639,660. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A. Regarding Claims 1-12 and 14, Claim 1 has been amended, as set forth above, to recite, "A method for indicating defect locations on a composite structure, the method comprising: electronically accessing positional data upon receipt of a defect signal from a defect detection system, the positional data defining a location of a defect

on a composite structure; determining whether the defect is unacceptable; determining whether repair of the defect can be affected using an automated repair system; determining whether the defect requires manually affected repair; and automatically causing a light source to direct light at the composite structure to indicate: the defect location as defined by the positional data; whether the defect is unacceptable; and if the defect is determined to be unacceptable, at least one of: whether repair of the defect can be automatically affected; and whether the defect requires manually affected repair.”

Applicants respectfully submit that Beck et al. does not describe, show or suggest a method for indicating defect locations on a composite structure as recited in amended Claim 1. For example, Applicants submit that Beck et al. does not describe, show or suggest a method for indicating defect locations on a composite structure that includes determining whether a defect is unacceptable and whether repair of the defect can be affected using an automated repair system or requires manually affected repair. Additionally, Applicants submit that Beck et al. does not describe, show or suggest such a method that includes automatically causing a light source to direct light at a composite structure to indicate location of the defect as defined by the positional data and whether if the defect is determined to be unacceptable, indicated whether repair of the defect can be automatically affected or requires manually affected repair.

Rather, Beck et al. describes a projection device 1 that projects light beams 2 onto a vehicle 4 such that measurement or defect sites 3 are marked clearly and readily visible to an operating person. Spacings between two or more such points can be determined such that vehicle bodies are very precisely measurable. Beck et al. further describes that it is possible to project symbol or color codes or sketches onto the vehicle for direct display of measurement results on vehicle 4 by means of the projection device 1 or another projector 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Beck et al. is very vague and describes and suggests little other than a system that indicates measurement or defect sites using light beams, wherein the light beams could possibly display vehicle body measurement results.

It is well established that for a claim to be unpatentable over a cited reference under 35 USC §103, there must be some motivation or suggestion in the reference or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference. It is further established that it is impermissible to use hindsight reconstruction to deprecate the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully submit that Beck et al. is silent, and does not suggest or provide motivation regarding: 1) determination of defect acceptability; 2) determination of whether repair of the defect can be affected using an automated repair system or requires manually affected repair; 3) automatically causing a light source to direct light at a composite structure to indicate location of the defect; and 4) if the defect is determined to be unacceptable, indicating, via the light source, whether repair of the defect can be automatically affected or requires manually affected repair.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no suggestion or motivation to modify Beck et al. to achieve the present invention as recited in amended Claim 1. Applicants further respectfully submit that the Office, however unintentionally, used hindsight reconstruction to review the recitations of the presently pending claims and conclude that Beck et al. renders the claims obvious merely because Beck et al. describes a system using a light source to indicate measurement and defect sites.

Thus, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 is patentable over Beck et al. Claims 2-12 and 14 depend from amended Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-12 and 14 are considered in combination with the recitations of amended Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claims 2-12 and 14 are likewise patentable over Beck et al.

B. Regarding Claims 15-21 and 23, Claim 15 has been amended, as set forth above, to recite limitations similar to those recited in amended Claim 1. Therefore, in accordance with the remarks set forth above, with respect to amended Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 15 is also patentable over Beck et al.

Claims 16-21 and 23 depend from amended Claim 15. When the recitations of Claims 16-21 and 23 are considered in combination with the recitations of amended

Claim 15, Applicants submit that Claims 16-21 and 23 are likewise patentable over Beck et al.

C. Regarding Claims 24-27 and 29, Claim 24 has been amended, as set forth above, to recite limitations similar to those recited in amended Claim 1. Therefore, in accordance with the remarks set forth above, with respect to amended Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 24 is also patentable over Beck et al.

Claims 24-27 and 29 depend from amended Claim 24. When the recitations of Claims 24-27 and 29 are considered in combination with the recitations of amended Claim 24, Applicants submit that Claims 24-27 and 29 are likewise patentable over Beck et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejections of Claims 1-12, 14-21, 23-27 and 29 be withdrawn.

ADDITIONAL REMARKS

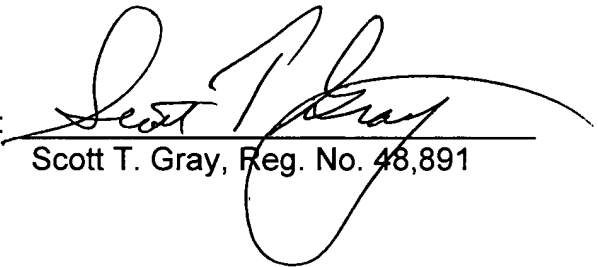
Applicants have attached hereto a copy of the reference identified by the IDS and 1449 filed by Applicants on January 10, 2005, but inexplicably was missing from the IDS/1449 package the Examiner reviewed, namely item 4 on the 1449. Applicants respectfully submit that a copy of the reference was properly included and filed with the IDS and 1449 forms on January 10, 2005.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314) 726-7525.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 3/3/06

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